



THE MOKI MESSENGER

August 2022

San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

sjbas.org

Next SJBAS Meeting: August 10 at the FLC Lyceum & on Zoom

Our next meeting will be held in person on August 10 at 7:00 PM in the Lyceum at the Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College. After a brief business meeting Robert Weiner a PhD candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder will present on “Chacoan Roads: How Were They Used, and Why Does It Matter?”

You can find the link and more information at sjbas.org

President’s Message

A recent insert in *The Durango Herald* focused on volunteering. As noted, an active community of volunteers is essential not only for non-profits such as SJBAS but communities in general. An article a couple of years ago in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine reported that “adults over age 50 who volunteer two hours per week have a substantially reduced risk of mortality and developing physical limitations.” Moreover, volunteers actually increased their amount of physical activity and reported an improved sense of well-being.

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SJBAS can only get better with greater engagement from its members. We have a number of open positions so feel free to contact me for more information about them. But even if it's not us, find an organization that brings a smile to your face and spend an hour or two a week helping them out. La Plata County has an estimated 300 non-profit organization doing good things in the community.

Sincerely,
 Susan Hicks
 SJBAS President

Calendar of Field Trips, Speakers and Events for 2022

See SJBAS.org for details on each of these field trips or events. You must be a SJBAS member to participate in field trips. All are welcome to attend speaking events.

Tentative Field Trip and Activity Schedule - 2022

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| August 10 | SJBAS meeting – Robert Weiner is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder. He will present on Chacoan Roads: How Were They Used, and Why Does It Matter? |
| August 11-14 | Pecos Conference – 2022 – One- to three-day trip at Rowe Mesa near Pecos National Historic Park just 30-minutes east of Santa Fe. Archaeologists gather under open skies to discuss recent research, problems of the field, and the challenges of the profession. Most participants camp at the conference site. No trip limit. Difficulty Rating: Easy. For more information or to sign up, contact trip leader Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com . The website for the conference and registration is pecosconference.org . |
| September 11 | Sand Canyon in Canyons of the Ancients National Monument – Visit Sand Canyon Pueblo at the head of Sand Canyon then hike down into the canyon to view other sites. Trip participation limit is 12. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Rusty Chamberlain at chambrke@aol.com . |
| September 14 | SJBAS meeting – Update on the Chaco Solstice Project by Anna Sofaer, Rob Weiner and Rich Friedman. |
| September 16 – 18 | Tsiping Ruins near Abiquiu, NM – Two-day camping trip or motel stay. Archaeologist-led tour of Tsiping Ruins, a Tewa Puebloan Ruin of 1250 AD. Second day visit Ruth Hall Paleontology Museum at Ghost Ranch. Trip participation limit is 15. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Tish Varney at tishvarney@att.net . Trip is Full . Contact Tish about a wait list. |
| September 23-25 | Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park – Two-day, one-night camping trip at the Tribal Park Campground. On the first day, volunteers maintain trails and facilities; on the second day a Ute guide will lead a tour of several cliff dwellings. Participants must be fit and ready to work all day. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Thomas Polich at thomas.polich@gmail.com . Canceled |
| October 7-9 | Bear's Ears National Monument Backcountry Sites – Three-day camping at BLM's Comb Wash Campground. We will explore various Ancestral |

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| | Puebloan sites and conclude the trip at Andy's house in Bluff with a gathering at dusk. Trip participation limit is 10. Difficulty Rating: Moderate. For more information or to sign up, contact Andy Gulliford at andy@agulliford.com |
| October 12 | SJBAS meeting – The Pre-Hispanic Parrot Trade: Scarlet Macaws in the US Southwest & Mexican Northwest presented by Christopher Schwartz. |
| November 9 | SJBAS meeting - Ann Axtell Morris and the amazing story of early 20th century women archaeologists in the Southwest presented by Kelley Hays-Gilpin. |
| December | SJBAS Annual Meeting and Holiday Brunch |

Member Interview: Shelby Tisdale

Archaeology. The term connotes dusty stuff on shelves and guys digging and sifting dirt over moving screens. Always looking backward. Southwest Archaeology of today knows that to understand and learn from the past it needs descendant tribal communities as partners. Dr. Shelby Tisdale, who has nurtured these partnerships, recently “retired” as director of the Center of Southwest Studies. She sat down for an interview with *The Moki* to talk about how much the field has changed and where she thinks it is headed.



Sen Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Dr Tisdale.

Q: *What have been some of the highlights of your career?*

A: One of the highlights has been the opportunity to work with so many Native Americans--especially Native American artists. Working with collections throughout my career in museums has also been a highlight: archaeological collections as well as ethnographic collections. Working in museums has been pretty much my career. I love museums and always have--ever since I was a child. I'm very fortunate in being able to go from curator to director. Another highlight was serving for two terms on the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History's Repatriation Review Committee and my recent appointment in 2020 to the National NAGPRA Review Committee by the Secretary of the Interior.

Q: *When you started your career did you think it would take this direction?*

A: No, not at all. I actually started out thinking I was going to be a dentist. In college I decided I didn't like all the chemistry and science classes. I was more interested in people. So, I thought sociology would be good. When I was living in Denver, I went up to Boulder thinking I would like to go to CU. I went to the sociology department and met with a counselor. After chatting he said, I don't think you are the type of person who likes to work with a lot of numbers. I said, you're right. He said sociology is a lot of statistics—involving lots of gathering of data and number crunching. Then he asked, what are you reading right now? [I answered], books like *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* and books on Native American history, culture and art. He said, you need to talk with someone in the Anthropology Department.

One of my first classes was on Southwest archaeology. So, I signed up for the summer field school. I came down to Southwest Colorado and worked for the Dolores Archaeological Project and then came back again and worked at Yellow Jacket with Joe Ben Wheat. But I decided not to stay in Archaeology as it was moving more toward contract archaeology. That didn't interest me so I went into the Peace Corp in Colombia. When I came back, I decided to go to the University of Washington for my masters. They had a museum studies program and one in public health. I was thinking of working [either] on Indian reservations [in public health] or in museums. I applied to both and got accepted first to museum studies so went in that direction. I got my masters and then went to Santa Fe to work at the School for Advanced Research in their Indian Arts Research Center. I did a thesis on repatriation back in the 1980s; pre-NAGPRA. I worked in museums for a couple of years then went to get my PhD at the University of Arizona.

Q: *What are the most significant changes you've seen in the field?*

A: One of the biggest changes is the acceptance and inclusion of Indigenous archaeologists. In addition, the importance of oral histories among Natives and descendant communities; and the key role these are now playing in interpreting the ancient past.

Q: *Was there a tipping point, for example NAGPRA?*

A: I think it goes both ways. There have been some important collaborations. People like TJ Ferguson [noted SW archaeologist] have been at the forefront of this since the 70s. And yes, NAGPRA has played a major role as well as the section 106 process. [Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.]

In the mid-90s I was working on a big CRM project out on the Barry Goldwater Range in SW Arizona. It was under a contract with Luke Air Force Base and I was doing traditional cultural property studies. I worked with 26 different tribes consulting on that project and it was really interesting to incorporate their voice into the interpretation of what was going on out there in the past. And identifying places that as archaeologists, as non-natives, we would never know about. [There were] sacred springs, sacred rock sites; areas that just looked like a bunch of rocks. They would say, well this means this, etc.

And as well, having more Native people become interested in archaeology and wanting to learn more about their past and their history. It's been a combination of both, archaeologists and others working collaboratively with Native Americans and how that has grown through the years and decades.

The other change is just in technology. Now archaeology is starting to move away from excavating everything in sight and bringing it back to a repository. Instead, we're now using ground penetrating radar and LIDAR (light detecting and ranging). All these things are making a big difference. What we need to think about more is the protection of ancestral or ancient places and not so much excavation.

Note: *The second half of Shelby's interview will be in the September Moki.*

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board held a regular meeting on July 14, 2022.

The 2023 SJBAS picnic will be held on June 14th at the Junction Creek Picnic Shelter (subject to obtaining a reservation). It will be great fun!

The 2023 Field Trip planning meeting will be held this Fall.

There will be two Board positions opening up on January 1, 2023 - Hunter McCleary will retire as Vice President and focus on Technology and on producing the *Moki Messenger*. Lorraine McCleary will retire as Field Trip Coordinator. The Board will begin actively recruiting for these 2 positions so there can be a smooth transition. We thank Hunter and Lorraine for the hard work they have done and will do in the future.

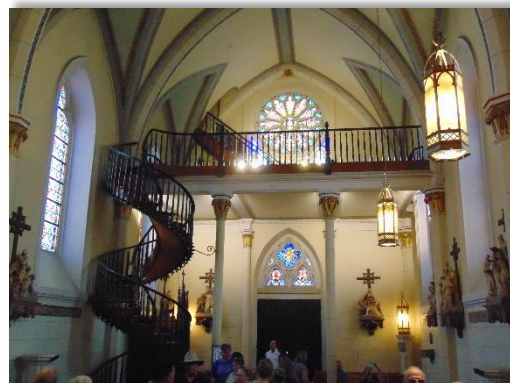
Susan Hicks would like to retire as President as of December 31, 2023. When recruiting for a Vice President, we will look for someone who can move into the President's position.

Field trip issues were also discussed. We have had a problem with several people signing up and then dropping out at the last minute. A group of 16 dwindled down to 5. This is discouraging to the field trip leaders who spend a lot of time planning and organizing trips. Several ideas were discussed such as changing the dues structure and charging for trips, both of which could cause accounting issues. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting. Members are encouraged to share their ideas (sc53hicks@gmail.com).

The next SJBAS Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2022, 3:00-5:00pm, Program Room 3 in the Durango Public Library. All SJBAS members are invited to attend. If you would like more information and/or a copy of the agenda, please contact Susan Hicks, sc53hicks@gmail.com.

Trip Report: Historic Santa Fe and Environs

Five SJBAS members convoyed down from Durango to the first stop at El Rancho de Las Golondrinas, a living history park south of Santa Fe. In English the name means "The Ranch of the Swallows." This historic ranch from the early 1700s was an important *paraje* or stopping place along the famous Camino Real, the Royal Road from Mexico City to Santa Fe. Many of the buildings are the original adobe and stone structures from the early 1700s. Docents in period dress help explain life on a 1700s New Mexico farm. Although we were at the park for



three hours an entire day could have been spent also visiting the working farm and the Lenora Curtin Wetlands Preserve.

For accommodations we stayed at the Sage Inn which is 30 minutes from the park and 20 minutes from the Santa Fe main Plaza by foot. That evening we dined at Marias's New Mexican Kitchen.

Friday was Santa Fe Plaza and environs day. Our first event was visiting the Native artisans under the portico of the Palace of the Governors. On the recommendation of the McKibben's we also visited the nearby Manhattan Project office. This is where such Manhattan Project luminaries as Richard Feynman, Enrico Fermi, and Robert Oppenheimer were *processed* into Los Alamos.

It was then on to a guided tour of the New Mexico History Museum and for tickets to the Palace of Governors. Our docent for History Museum, Terry Foreback, was entertaining and informative. He led us through the exhibits that show the five periods of New Mexico history. The Palace itself, however, was underwhelming as it is undergoing major restoration and most artifacts are in storage.



Following lunch, our next stop was the San Miguel Chapel and Santa Fe's oldest house. The chapel has been restored and looks much more impressive than during a previous visit. Next, we retraced our steps to Loretto Chapel and its miraculous spiral staircase. We then visited the Roundhouse, the New Mexico State capital building. What a treat. The staff offered us a tour which we accepted. The Roundhouse is filled with paintings and sculptures by New Mexico artists.



Saturday was Pecos and Museum Hill day. We drove 30 minutes to Glorieta Pass and Pecos National Historical Park. After a brief video narrated by a posh British voice (turns out to be Greer Garson) on the long history of Pecos Pueblo area, we joined a ranger-led tour. She led us through part of the mound that was the pueblo and then to the ruins of the last of several mission churches built on that site. Following lunch, we drove back to Santa Fe and Museum Hill where we took in the Wheelwright Museum of the American Indian and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture.

Maybe next year we can visit the intended destination—the Ohkay Owinghe Feast Day, which was canceled because of covid.

Trip travelers were Rusty Chamberlain, Mark and Michelle McKibben and Bill and Jan Postler.
–Rusty Chamberlain

Trip Report: Arborglyphs of the Western Slope

A group of SJBAS members led by historian Andy Gulliford met at Burro Bridge campground near Dutton on July 19 to spend a couple of days exploring the seldom told story of the sheep herders of Colorado. The first afternoon



we wandered along the Groundhog Stockway looking for names, dates, and the occasional finely detailed arborglyph on aspen trees.



On day two we met with Pete Montano whose New Mexico forebearers herded sheep on the Western Slope for decades.

We were entertained by stories of his family tending herds of 2,000 ewes and lambs with their six

or so herding and guard dogs. We were privileged to be taken to his family's Penitente Calvario (cross) site and stone cairn which is still cherished and attended by his extended family. Afterwards, we wandered along the sheep trail searching for more arborglyphs.



Participants were Andy Gulliford, Pete Montano, Pete and Tish Varney, Lorraine McCleary, Rich and Janet Wheeler and new member Gary Harbison. Thanks, Andy! –Lorraine McCleary

Briefs

Current issue of *Archaeology Southwest* offers a wonderful overview of birds and Southwest Native American culture. If you are not a member of *Archaeology Southwest* this issue alone is worth the price of joining. As a sampler, one article discusses how animals are extended kin to humans; that we all have common shared goals. For more information go [here](#).

Exhibition refutes myth of Native Americans in Pictures. You've all seen them. The old sepia tones images that helped create the myth of Native Americans as the noble savage. Diné photographer Will Wilson turns those old stereotyped tintypes on their head by rendering current images to look like the old ones. You can see a sampler of the images [here](#). There is also an

exhibition of his and the work of other Indian artists at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts that runs into December.

Itinerant Archaeologist RE Burillo Examines the Complexities of American Archaeology in his new Book. Burillo’s, *The Backwoods of Everywhere*, melds his observations of indigenous and tourist cultures from Arizona to the Yucatan. His previous book was *Behind the Bears Ears*. You can listen to an interview with him on [Utah Public Radio](#).

Museum Roundup

The Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe has two exhibits making a trek there worth your time. *Grounded in Clay* just opened and runs through the end of the year before moving on to major museums around the country. It features over 100 historic and contemporary works. What makes it remarkable is it is curated by Native Americans. *Painted Reflections: Isomeric Design in Ancestral Pueblo Pottery* opened earlier this year and runs until Mar 12, 2023. It looks at the aesthetic qualities of Pueblo Art, imparting a new perspective. You can find more information [here](#).

SJBAS Elected Officers and Other Board Members

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| President | Susan Hicks | sc53hicks@gmail.com |
| Vice President | Hunter McCleary | hunter@bike-durango.org |
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| Membership chair | Tish Varney | tishvarney@att.net |
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| <i>Moki Messenger</i> editor | Hunter McCleary | Hunter@bike-durango.org |

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| Programming chair | Janice Sheftel | janicesheftel@gmail.com |
| Publicity chair | Rusty Chamberlain | chambrke@aol.com |
| Social chair | Michelle and Mark McKibben | michellemckibben56@gmail.com |
| Webmaster | Lyle Hancock | lhancock1@outlook.com |

SJBAS Membership renewals are due by January 31st each year. If you need to renew a lapsed membership or join SJBAS, please complete the [SJBAS Annual Membership Form](#), make your check for \$15 (\$30 family, \$10 student) payable to 'SJBAS' and mail with the Annual Membership Form to: SJBAS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 3153, Durango, CO 81302.